

**CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A filler wire guide tube for guiding a filler wire, the base material of the wire guide tube being plastic, ~~characterized in that~~wherein in the cross section of the wire guide tube is formed by an inner region containing a particulate additive comprising at least polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and an outer layer not blended with such an additive.

2. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of patent claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the additive composition includes particulate silicon.

3. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of ~~patent-claim 1 or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~wherein the amount of the additive composition is about 12 – 20 % in the weight of the additive containing region, and the additive composition comprises polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) by about 12 – 17 wt. % and silicon by about 1 – 3 wt. %.

4. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of ~~any one of patent-claims 1 – 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~wherein the thickness of the additive containing region is 200 - 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of ~~any one of patent-claims 1 – 4,~~ ~~characterized in that~~wherein the base material of the wire guide tube is high-density polyethylene (HDPE).

6. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of ~~any one of patent-claims 1 – 5,~~ ~~characterized in that~~wherein the wire guide inner diameter is in the range of 2 - 4 mm and the outer diameter in the range of 4 - 7 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The filler wire guide of ~~any one of patent-claims 1 – 6,~~ ~~characterized in that~~wherein the additive composition includes molybdenum sulfide.